CLAIMS

1. A telecommunication network comprising:

a packetized network;

a call control agent associated with the packetized network, the call control agent being arranged to control at least one communication channel across the packetized network; and

at least one media gateway (40, 76, 98) associated with the call control agent (74, 94), the media gateway (40, 76, 98) being arranged to receive and convert signals compatible with a first communication format arriving at the media gateway (40, 76, 98) into signals compatible with a second communication format,

wherein the media gateway has associated therewith a media streaming unit (52) that is arranged to determine whether or not the signals of the first communication format relate to media data.

2. A telecommunication network, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the media streaming unit (52), dependent on a positive determination, is arranged to convert signals that relate to media data and that are compatible with the first communication format into signals compatible with the second communication format for onward transmission on a communication channel across the packetized network.

3. A telecommunication network, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the media streaming unit (52), dependent on a negative determination, is arranged to forward signals that relate to non-media data to a gateway core processor associated with the media gateway (40, 76, 98).

4. A telecommunication network, as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the media streaming unit (52) is arranged to determine whether or not the signals of the second communication format relate to media data and, dependent on a positive determination, is arranged to convert signals that relate to media data and that are compatible with the second communication format into signals compatible with the first communication format for onward transmission on a communication channel adapted to transport signals compatible with the first communication format.

5. A telecommunication network, as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the media streaming unit (52) is arranged to determine whether or not the signals of the second communication format relate to media data and, dependent on a negative determination, is arranged to forward such signals that relate to non-media data to a gateway core processor associated with the media gateway (40, 76, 98).

6. A telecommunication network, as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the first communication format is pulse code modulation.

7. A telecommunication network, as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6, wherein the second communication format is a packetized scheme.

8. A telecommunication network, as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the media streaming unit (52) is a field programmable gate array.

9. A telecommunication network, as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein determination of whether or not the signals of the first communication format relate to media data or whether or not the signals of the second communication format relate to media data is determined from a call records detail associated with the signals.

10. A method of operating a media gateway (40, 76, 98), comprising determining whether or not the signals of a first communication format relate to media data and, dependent upon a positive determination, converting such signals into signals compatible with a second communication format.

11. A media gateway (40, 76, 98) for connection of a first network to a second network, the media gateway (40, 76, 98) being arranged to receive and convert signals compatible with a first communication format arriving at the media gateway (40, 76, 98) into signals compatible with a second communication format, wherein the media gateway (40, 76, 98) has associated therewith a media streaming unit (52) that is arranged to

determine whether or not the signals of the first communication format relate to media data.

12. A media gateway (40, 76, 98), as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the media streaming unit (52), dependent on a positive determination, is arranged to convert signals that relate to media data and which are compatible with the first communication format into signals compatible with the second communication format for onward transmission on a communication channel of the second network.

13. A media gateway (40, 76, 98), as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the media streaming unit (52), dependent on a negative determination, is arranged to forward signals that relate to non-media data to a gateway core processor associated with the media gateway (40, 76, 98).

14. A media gateway (40, 76, 98), as claimed in any of Claims 11 to 13, wherein the media streaming unit (52) is arranged to determine whether or not the signals of the second communication format relate to media data and, dependent on a positive determination, to convert signals that relate to media data and which are compatible with the second communication format into signal compatible with the first communication format for onward transmission on a communication channel of the first network.

15. A media gateway (40, 76, 98), as claimed in any of Claims 11 to 13, wherein the media streaming unit (52), dependent on a negative determination, is arranged to forward signals which relate to non-media data to a gateway core processor associated with the media gateway (40, 76, 98).